

For immediate release
June 27, 2005

USIBWC ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS' FORUM BOARD MEMBERS; PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 28

Arturo Q. Duran, Commissioner of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), has appointed ten individuals to serve as board members of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens' Forum (LRGCF). The USIBWC established the Lower Rio Grande Citizens' Forum two years ago to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The Commission is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico. Locally, the agency operates and maintains the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project.

Commissioner Duran appointed the following individuals:

- Mary Lou Campbell - Conservation Chair, Lower Rio Grande Sierra Club, Mercedes
- Joseph Coulter - President, Lower Rio Grande Water Committee, Brownsville
- Kika de la Garza - Vice Chairman, Lower Rio Grande Water Committee, retired
Congressman, McAllen
- Laura de la Garza - Arroyo Colorado Watershed Coordinator, Weslaco
- Jerry Freeman - South Texas College, Weslaco
- Neil Haman - Texas Water Development Board, Harlingen Rotary, Harlingen
- Bill Lewis - Halff Associates, American Society of Civil Engineers, Water Environment
Federation, McAllen
- Jose Muñoz - Harlingen resident

- Martha Noell - President/CEO, Weslaco Chamber of Commerce, World Birding Center, Inc. Advisory Board, Weslaco
- Wayne Wells - University of Texas-Brownsville, American Society for Engineering Education, fisherman, Rancho Viejo

USIBWC Lower Rio Grande Project Manager Rick Reyes will serve as the agency representative on the Board. The board members will serve a two-year term.

“I was impressed with the caliber of the applicants and I know that the new board, with its excellent qualifications and diversity of perspectives, will help the Commission be more responsive to the community at large,” said Commissioner Duran.

The first public meeting with the new board is scheduled for June 28 at 4:00 p.m. in the Hoblitzelle Auditorium of the Texas A & M Agricultural Research and Extension Center, 2415 E. Highway 83 in Weslaco, Texas. A complete meeting agenda appears below. Members of the public who would like more information can contact the USIBWC’s Lower Rio Grande Project Office at 956-565-3150 or Public Affairs Officer Sally Spener at sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov.

For more information:

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LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS' FORUM

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

4:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Hoblitzelle Auditorium

Texas A & M Agricultural Research and Extension Center

2415 E. Highway 83

Weslaco, Texas

Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction of New Board Members - Rick Reyes, Co-Chair, USIBWC
- Flood Control Studies and Rehabilitation Plan for USIBWC Rio Grande and Interior Floodway Levees - Steven J. Smullen, Lead Civil Engineer, USIBWC
- Update on Planning for Binational Rio Grande Summit - Carlos Rivera, Secretary, USIBWC
- Update on Payment of Mexico's Rio Grande Water Debt - Carlos Rivera, Secretary, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Member Orientation - Sally Spener, USIBWC Public Affairs Officer
- Board Discussion, Suggested Future Agenda Items

NOTE: The next meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens' Forum is scheduled for September 28.

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time.

For more information, call 956-565-3150 or e-mail sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov.